



Board Talking Points

March 2022

Spring is right around the corner, marking the annual time of renewal. A sense of optimism is in the air as we move toward a more positive stage of the pandemic, resulting in school safety plans changes. As I pen this document, the following is in place:

- The indoor mask requirement for Oregon, including schools, will be lifted on March 11. Thus, masks will no longer be required for staff and students.
- Governor Brown also lifted the state emergency order on April 1. This is more of a technicality with little impact on schools.
- The vaccination requirement for school and health care staff will remain in place. The vaccination requirement for other government officials will be lifted.
- These changes will require modifications to our safety plans. On March 2, ODE released modifications to RSSL requirements, resulting in local decision-making and coordination with Local Public Health authorities.

It has been a long haul. COVID created polarization in our communities, which presented immense challenges to school boards and superintendents. Throughout it all, you successfully navigated the myriad of changes with your communities. I am proud of how eastern Oregon handled the crisis. Better days are on the horizon as we move into spring.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.